

NATIONAL CONGRESS Bulletin



JUNE-JULY, 1940

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
600 South Michigan Boulevard Chicago, Illinois

Vol. 7 — No. 10

Dear Local President:

Your newly elected officers are mindful of the confidence and trust you have placed in them and the honor that is theirs to work with you during the next three years. To them and to you the next few years present an added challenge, for again a White House Conference has evaluated America's service to its children and youth. Out of this evaluation and its attendant recommendations has emerged a program peculiarly adapted to the genius of the parent-teacher association. As we study the recommendations, most of them calling for community action, the importance of the community in the life of the child is forcefully brought to our attention. We realize that the home and the child cannot be separated from the community in our consideration. In past years we have focused our attention on the home and the school. We now should add to our thought the child in his community. A program including all three forces — home, school, and community — will present a great opportunity for service and will make possible our follow-up of the findings of the White House Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Kletzer

President,
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



Mrs. William Kletzer

STATEMENT—WORLD SITUATION

THE following statement prepared by the national president, Mrs. William Kletzer, was adopted at the meeting of the national Executive Committee, June 28, 1940:

The National Congress firmly believes in the ability and power of our regularly designated authorities to deal competently with emergencies as they arise, and to effect the necessary legislation to meet those emergencies.

The National Congress likewise believes that there is no time quite so important for focusing attention on the needs of children as the time when the Nation is involved in a great emergency. Children feel the insecurity of their elders, and doubly so when the normal activities to which they

have become accustomed are withdrawn. That is why it is very important for an organization such as ours to hew to the line on its regular program of interest and action. If all other organizations are turning toward national defense, international policy, and even the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, then our organization must hold the line on the normal community services to children in education, in recreation, in social service, and in medical care. Regardless of what we do today in national or international affairs, tomorrow must be safeguarded, and the greatest safeguard for tomorrow is the preservation of the physical, mental, and emotional stability of our present generation of children.

NATIONAL CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 15, 1940

Alabama.....	55,386
Arizona.....	9,259
Arkansas.....	32,380
California.....	247,177
Colorado.....	45,897
Connecticut.....	27,800
Delaware.....	4,873
D. C.....	18,162
Florida.....	54,296
Georgia.....	47,876
Hawaii.....	18,425
Idaho.....	8,012
Illinois.....	165,384
Indiana.....	69,730
Iowa.....	51,112
Kansas.....	43,325
Kentucky.....	35,117
Louisiana.....	19,356
Maine.....	5,928
Maryland.....	12,862
Massachusetts.....	28,367
Michigan.....	84,303
Minnesota.....	52,091
Mississippi.....	15,739
Missouri.....	71,151
Montana.....	9,918
Nebraska.....	25,182
New Hampshire.....	4,324
New Jersey.....	101,273
New Mexico.....	3,853
New York.....	108,913
North Carolina.....	73,713
North Dakota.....	11,804
Ohio.....	169,306
Oklahoma.....	32,344
Oregon.....	25,530
Pennsylvania.....	131,607
Rhode Island.....	10,184
South Carolina.....	12,570
South Dakota.....	12,960
Tennessee.....	72,256
Texas.....	132,134
Utah.....	17,336
Vermont.....	8,947
Virginia.....	57,762
Washington.....	52,480
West Virginia.....	45,480
Wisconsin.....	31,023
Wyoming.....	3,324
Alaska.....	60
Nevada.....	1,095
Puerto Rico.....	213
Total.....	2,379,599



THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

PARENT-TEACHER people of the Nation came together in Omaha May 6-9 for the annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. There, for four days, nearly 1,400 delegates assembled to think through the problems involved in the third human right, "And the Pursuit of Happiness." They participated actively in convention conferences, panel discussions, and social activities. They gained new understanding of their parent-teacher problems and secured fresh inspiration for carrying forward the ideals of the parent-teacher organization.

"And the Pursuit of Happiness"

THE convention theme, "And the Pursuit of Happiness," was developed from three points of view: the Foundations for Happiness; the Achievement of Happiness; and Safeguards for Happiness.

It was traced from earliest beginnings in childhood to adulthood, and emphasis was placed on the role that parents and teachers can play in helping the child toward becoming a happy, well-adjusted individual and a useful member of society.

Concern for the future of democratic government was evident in every session and conference.

The national president, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, reviewed the interpretation during her administration of the three-year theme, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." She expressed the hope that parents and teachers may continue to work together to solve their problems and thus ultimately make possible a world in which every child will have a right to pursue and secure happiness.

Speaking on the subject of "The Forgotten Phrase," William F. Russell, Dean, Teachers College, Columbia University, warned against the excesses of human behavior which lead on one extreme to tyranny and on the other to uncurbed license, which is not to be confused with liberty. Among the forces which threaten democracy, he listed migration to urban centers, private control of natural resources, technology, the declining birth rate, and war, the greatest of all threats to democratic institutions. A liberal education to show people the true values of life was advocated as being the greatest safeguard for democracy.

FOUNDATIONS FOR HAPPINESS

• In an address, "Beginnings with Children," Willard C. Olson, Uni-

versity of Michigan, pointed out that development of right attitudes in early life is basic to adult happiness. Experiences which will develop the child's ability to cope with difficult situations and permit him to find some measure of success are essential.

Malcolm S. MacLean, University of Minnesota, in discussing the subject, "As Children Grow Older," advised that youth needs four essentials for happiness: (1) Youth must know himself, his impulses, feelings and reactions to other people; (2) youth must know satisfying human relationships and a harmonious home life; (3) youth must find and keep a good, socially satisfying job; (4) youth must prepare for responsible citizenship.

Under the leadership of Robert Foster, Merrill-Palmer School, Detroit, the panel discussion Tuesday afternoon led to these conclusions: (1) Foundations for happiness are laid largely in the home; (2) the home, community, and school share responsibilities for setting the stage and carrying on the program which leads to happiness; (3) the P.T.A. can be a potent factor in strengthening and enriching a democratic program of education which lays the foundations for happiness for children and adults.

A war-torn, bewildered world was pictured by G. W. Rosenlof, University of Nebraska, in an address, "This Is Our World." Public education which will enable the individual to realize his own best self and to make his maximum contribution to the social good was declared by the speaker to be the key to individual freedom, to national well-being, and ultimately to world peace.

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HAPPINESS

• Because the people of a democracy must win their happiness together, the achievement of happiness is closely related to effective citizenship, according to G. L. Maxwell, Educational Policies Commission, who

spoke on "Citizens in the Making." He stated that schools should make citizenship their first responsibility and that parents should understand and support school aims, if we are to produce a responsible citizenry.

A program of induction into citizenship for young people arriving at voting age was advocated by Hugh S. Bonar, chairman of the committee on Induction into Citizenship, National Education Association, who recommended that the young voters be given basic information on government, employment, vocational education, juvenile delinquency, crime, taxation, public health, education, recreation, and other social and economic problems.

Representatives of labor, law, business, agriculture, economics, citizenship education, and public education participated in the panel discussion Wednesday afternoon, led by Robert K. Speer, New York University. The panel agreed that the P.T.A. can best help young people to achieve happiness through stimulating public opinion and action for the kind of community conditions which will create opportunities for young people to achieve social competency and economic effectiveness.

Carleton Washburne, president, Progressive Education Association, presented "A Living Philosophy of Happiness," and advocated regulation of the child's environment to provide satisfaction of three basic needs: self-expression, security, and social integration. "Happiness," he said, "is as good a gauge of mental health and of wholesome personality adjustment as a normal temperature is of general physical well-being."

SAFEGUARDS FOR HAPPINESS

• The 1940 White House Conference on Children in a Democracy was considered on Thursday as one of the most important "Safeguards for Happiness."

The general purpose and program of the Conference were outlined by Bess Goodykoontz, Assistant U. S. Commissioner of Education, in discussing "An America Awake to Its Children." Points of significance for parents and teachers included ways of studying a community, the importance of viewing the child in relation to his total background, and the family as the threshold to democracy.

PROGRAM IN MINIATURE

Miss Goodykoontz was followed by Philip Klein, Research Director of the White House Conference, who drew a graphic picture of the conditions under which children in this country are growing up. "Some two-thirds of the Nation's 41,000,000 children live in families that cannot afford to give them the basic necessities for a decent standard of living," he said. The White House Conference proposes recommendations which recognize that a national responsibility involves national action to supply the health, education, and recreation services needed by these children.

The panel discussion Thursday afternoon, led by the national president, continued the consideration of the report and recommendations of the White House Conference. Representatives of law, housing, religion, health, and sociology contributed their differing points of view to the solution of the problems involved in setting up safeguards for happiness.

The Findings of the Convention will be published in the September BULLETIN.

BYLAWS REVISIONS POSTPONED

At a business session, the delegate body voted to omit action on the proposed revisions to the National Bylaws, but discussed the items in a committee of the whole.

NATIONAL CHAIRMEN'S CONFERENCES

Among the most valuable features of the convention were the national chairmen's conferences, conducted as working groups, in which delegates participated freely. Various methods of carrying on activities on each committee subject were studied and analyzed with a view to improving

procedures and strengthening programs. Thus delegates were able to test their ideas against the practical experience and working knowledge of their fellow members. A common element of all the conferences was their emphasis on the use of state and local community resources in enriching the parent-teacher program.

The *Proceedings*, which will be available in September, will contain a report of these conferences and also the addresses and panel discussions.

NATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

• Mrs. William Kletzer, Portland, Oregon, formerly vice-president from Region VII, was elected president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, at the Omaha Convention. Elected to serve with Mrs. Kletzer for the triennium, 1940-43, were:

• Mrs. W. A. Hastings, Madison, Wisconsin, First Vice-President.
• Howard V. Funk, Bronxville, New York, Vice-President from Region I: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware.

• Mrs. Charles D. Center, College Park, Georgia, Secretary.

• Mrs. James K. Lytle, Los Angeles, California, Treasurer.

• Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson, Tacoma, Washington, was elected vice-president from Region VII to fill the remainder of the term. Region VII includes Washington, Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming.

• The other vice-presidents of the Congress, elected at the 1938 and 1939 Conventions are:

• Dr. Joseph M. Artman, Chicago, Second Vice-President.

• Mrs. S. C. Cox, Roanoke, Virginia, Region II: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina.

• Mrs. James Fitts Hill, Montgomery, Alabama, Region III: Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida.

• Mrs. Logan G. Hughes, Indianapolis, Indiana, Region IV: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio.

• Mrs. Chris Hirning, Mitchell, South Dakota, Region V: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri.

• Mrs. M. A. Taylor, Bonham, Texas, Region VI: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas.

• Mrs. C. H. Turner, Redondo Beach, California, Region VIII: California, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii.

• These officers, together with the presidents of the forty-nine state branches, chairmen of twenty-eight standing committees, and the president of National Parent-Teacher, Incorporated, constitute the national Board of Managers.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

The June-July issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* is devoted largely to convention addresses.

THE CHILD IN HIS COMMUNITY

A new booklet, "The Child in His Community," outlining a three-year program of action based on the 1940 White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, has been prepared by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers for inclusion in the local unit package, and will be distributed by the state branches.

IN THIRD PRINTING

Schools for Democracy has proved so popular that the third printing will be issued by the National Congress this summer.

YOUTH PAMPHLETS

High-school parent-teacher associations will be particularly interested in three pamphlets available from the American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education:

1. A Program of Action for American Youth.
2. Community Responsibility for Youth.
3. The Occupational Adjustment of Youth.

The pamphlets will be sent free upon request. Address: American Youth Commission, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C.

THE PASSING OF A PIONEER

Mrs. Edwin R. Weeks, pioneer National Congress worker, and founder of the Missouri Congress, died at the age of 89, in Kansas City, Missouri, May 24. A pioneer in educational and parent-teacher work, Mary Harmon Weeks maintained an active interest in both until her death. The influence for good she exerted during her lifetime will continue in the lives of countless thousands who were inspired by her great love for children and her constant effort in their behalf.

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Volume 7 JUNE-JULY Number 10

Published monthly from September through May, bimonthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Editorial Committee: Mrs. Charles D. Center, Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson, Mrs. Fred M. Raymond

Subscription price: 20 cents a year.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

New Features in August-September issue

BEGINNING with the August-September issue, the *National Parent-Teacher* will have a new cover, new paper, and new illustrations. This change in the appearance of the Magazine is being made in order to appeal to a still larger group of readers. New editorial features will include a department called "P.T.A. Frontiers" and two new study courses.

P.T.A. FRONTIERS

• In this country, more than two and one-third million parents and teachers are working together for children and youth in 28,000 P.T.A.'s. What are they doing? How are they doing it? Those who read "P.T.A. Frontiers" will find the answers to both questions.



THE study course "This World of Ours" will be of unusual interest to parent-teacher groups, for it is directed by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, who has

just returned from a trip around the world. Dr. Arlitt is chairman of the committee on Parent Education of the National Congress. This course will provide a definite and broad program of study and discussion for organizations that are devoting time to a consideration of vital issues affecting youth today. The articles in it are timely, readable, and freshly challenging.

THE other course "Beginnings with Children" deals with the development of normal children of preschool age. Every father and mother who follows this course will acquire a better understanding of how to deal intelligently, sympathetically, and therefore successfully with young children in the family. This course is also directed by Dr. Arlitt.



The two series of articles on which both courses are based are recommended to local leaders who are looking for program and discussion material that will interest members.

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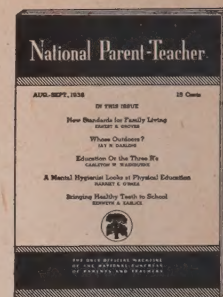
THE importance of focusing attention on the needs of children during this time when the Nation is involved in a great emergency is pointed out by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in a recent statement on the world situation. (See page 1 of this BULLETIN.)

Organized and informed parents and teachers constitute one of the country's most effective forces for preserving those democratic institutions which are essential to the growth and development of children in a free country. Realizing this, the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine calls upon all local leaders to give serious consideration to the service which it can render by keeping members reliably informed on matters to which parent-teacher attention needs to be directed. The official magazine of the National Congress is the publication for parent-teacher members to turn to now for dependable information and guidance.

Because we anticipate a heavy demand for "first copies" the moment the August-September issue comes from the press in its modern new format and with its interesting content, we urge you to place your subscription at once if you are not already a subscriber. If you are a subscriber we hope you will show your August-September number to members and other friends, for we are really counting on you to tell prospective subscribers about the merits of the *National Parent-Teacher*.

IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- When Do We Eat?
- The Bike Bucephalus
- How Did the United States Come About?
- Leave Your Children Alone



THE
NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER
is the magazine that will

1. *Keep you in touch with information that will make your leadership more valuable and effective.*
2. *Assist you in making parent-teacher work more interesting.*
3. *Interpret for you recent trends and developments in school education.*
4. *Provide you with flexible and dependable source materials for use in parent-teacher forums, radio talks, discussion and study groups.*
5. *Inform you concerning new developments in child guidance, parent education, and cooperative community relationships.*
6. *Bring you exceptionally interesting stories of what is happening in parent-teacher work throughout the whole country.*
7. *Share with you accumulated experience and wisdom of writers and specialists in fields of parent-teacher interest.*
8. *Clarify for you current thought on national and world events which affect the future security and well-being of your children.*
9. *Review for you books for yourself, for your P.T.A., and for your children.*
10. *Analyze for you the important issues being discussed by other parent-teacher leaders, by educators, and by outstanding citizens who are eager to safeguard for present and future generations the American way of life.*

• A parent-teacher leader in Oregon writes: "This is a new organization, but the members are familiar with the *National Parent-Teacher* because a neighboring parent-teacher association presented them with a year's subscription, hoping it would encourage this school in organizing a unit. This group now meets one afternoon in the month to study the Magazine and plans to send several subscriptions to you within a very short time."

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S. Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. Subscription Rate—\$1.00 a Year.